

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 ANTANA 01401 011438Z

ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 INT-05 PASS-00 NSF-02 NAS-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 USIA-15

PRS-01 SP-02 CU-04 SMI-01 /058 W

-----030527 011442Z /41

P 011404Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY ANTANANARIVO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9529

UNCLAS ANTANANARIVO 1401

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS TO USGS, BOULDER, COLORADO

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: TPHY, MA

SUBJECT: METEORITE FALLS ON MADAGASCAYD

1. AT ABOUT 1815 LOCAL TIME ON JULY 30, INHABITANTS OF ANTANANARIVO, AMONG THEM EMBASSY PERSONNEL, SAW A FLASH OF LIGHT IN THE SKY, SUCH AS THAT CAUSED BY A FLARE. SEVERAL MINUTES LATER TWO LOUD BANGS WERE HEARD WHICH SOUNDED TO VARIOUS PEOPLE LIKE SONIC BOOMS, ARTILLERY SHOTS, BOMB EXPLOSIONS, OR QUARRYING DETONATIONS. THE MALAGASY RADIO SUBSEQUENTLY ANNOUNCED THAT TWO METEORITES HAD FALLEN, ONE NEAR FIANARANTSOA AND THE OTHER NORTH OF ANTANANARIVO. THIS WAS APPARENTLY PICKED UP BY VOA, RADIO FRANCE, AND RADIO SOUTH AFRICA WHICH REPEATED THIS NEWS, THE FORMER TWO ADDING SUCH DETAILS AS SIZE OF CRATER, 240 METERS IN DIAMETER, AND SPECIFIC LOCATIONS.
2. TODAY'S OFFICIAL PRESS BULLETIN IS CAUTIOUS ABOUT REPORTING THE PHENOMENON, SPECIFYING THAT NO ONE HAD YET SEEN THE FALLEN OBJECTS AND WARNING THE POPULATION NOT TO TOUCH THEM OR TO TRAMPLE THE SURROUNDING AREA, AS THERE WILL BE MUCH SCIENTIFIC INTEREST IN THIS HAPPENING.
3. ACCORDING TO DIRECTOR OF UNIVERSITY OF MADAGASCAR

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 ANTANA 01401 011438Z

OBSERVATORY, HIS SEISMOGRAPHS PICKED UP ONLY ONE EARTH TREMOR WHICH COULD HAVE BEEN DUE TO A METEORITE IMPACT, AND THIS OCCURRED ABOUT 270 KILOMETERS FROM CAPITAL. EXACT LOCATION IMPOSSIBLE TO DETECT AS ONE OF KEY SEISMOGRAPHS WAS NOT FUNCTIONING, BUT IMPACT BELIEVED TO HAVE OCCURRED EAST OF CITY. OBSERVATORY PERSONNEL WILL START TOMORROW TO RECONNOITER AREA EASTWARD FROM ORAAMANGA, ON TAMATAVE

ROAD, IN EFFORT TO LOCATE METEORITE. THE IMPACT OCCURRED AT 1822 LOCAL TIME AND REGISTERED 0.3 ON RICHTER SCALE WHICH DIRECTOR SAYS WOULD NOT BE FELT BY INDIVIDUALS CLOSE TO AREA.

4. REPORT OF IMPACT NEAR FIANARANTSOA APPARENTLY DUE TO FACT THAT THERE OCCURRED A MILD NATURAL EARTH TREMOR IN THAT AREA APPROXIMATELY 30 MINUTES AFTER METEORITE IMPACT. REPORTS OF THIS TREMOR BY FIANARANTSOA RESIDENTS APPARENTLY CONNECTED BY RADIO NEWS PERSONNEL WITH METEORITE FALL. LOCAL RADIO IS REPORTEDLY PUTTING OUT A CORRECTED VERSION OF WHAT IS NOW KNOWN OF THIS EVENT.

5. OBSERVATORY DIRECTOR HAS REQUESTED THAT THIS INFORMATION BE PASSED TO USGS, BOULDER, COLORADO.BARRETT

NOTE BY OC/T: ANTANANARIVO 1401 PASSED USGS BOULDER COLORADO.

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: METEOROLOGY, SEISMOLOGY
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 01-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ANTANA01401
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770274-1251
Format: TEL
From: ANTANANARIVO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t197708112/aaaadrjt.tel
Line Count: 79
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 2772b350-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION OES
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28-Oct-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1439370
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: METEORITE FALLS ON MADAGASCAYD
TAGS: TPHY, MA
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/2772b350-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009